

Witnessing the Resurrection

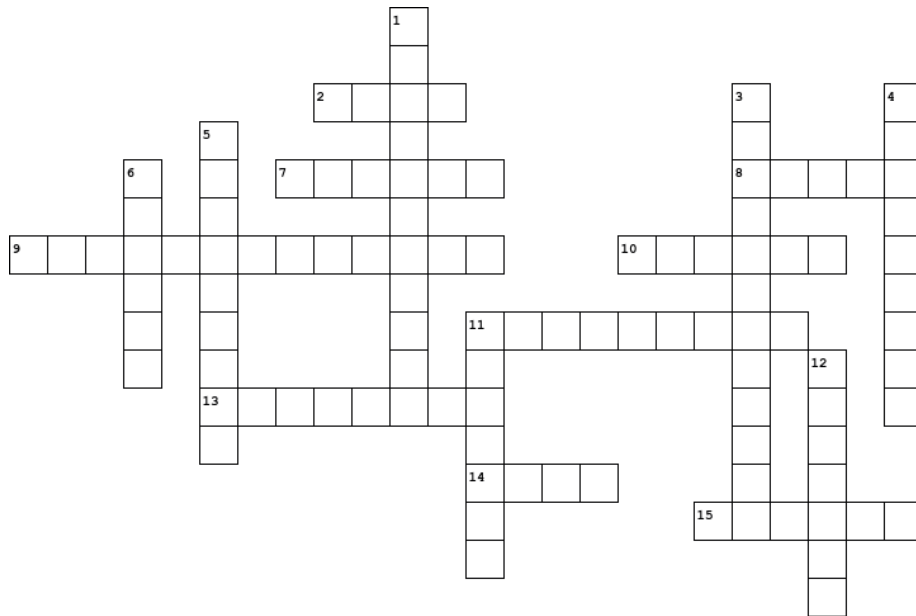
A case for the reliability of the resurrection account.

Sermon Questions

1. If the physical resurrection of Jesus did not happen, Christianity is worthless. (True/False)
2. Using the method, “inference to the best explanation,” what are the facts that need an explanation:
 - i. Jesus _____, crucified on a Roman cross by order of Pontius Pilate.
 - ii. Jesus was _____ in a tomb on Friday.
 - iii. The tomb was _____ Sunday morning.
 - iv. Women reported that the tomb was empty and that angels spoke to them.
 - v. Peter, not believing at first, confirmed that the _____ was empty.
3. Note each claim, circle if it is true or false, and if false, why it should be rejected:
 - i. **Claim:** Christians _____ resurrection stories to make up Jesus’ resurrection.
Response: (True/False) Why? _____
 - ii. **Claim:** First-century people were gullible, naïve, and prone to _____ in resurrection.
Response: (True/False) Why? _____
 - iii. **Claim:** The story of resurrection developed centuries _____ the historical Jesus.
Response: (True/False) Why? _____
 - iv. **Claim:** The “_____ Theory” best fits the facts.
Response: (True/False) Why? _____
 - v. **Claim:** The resurrection was a case of mistaken _____.
Response: (True/False) Why? _____
 - vi. **Claim:** The disciples _____ Jesus’ body to fabricate the resurrection.
Response: (True/False) Why? _____
 - vii. **Claim:** The “Hallucination Hypotheses” best fits the facts.
Response: (True/False) Why? _____
 - viii. **Claim:** Jesus’ body was thrown into a common _____.
Response: (True/False) Why? _____
 - ix. **Claim:** Only Christians believe the resurrection; there is no evidence from _____
Response: (True/False) Why? _____
4. In rejecting these claims, it is apparent that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. (True/False)

Discussion/Meditation Questions

1. The sermon used the "inference to the best explanation" method to assess the evidence for Jesus' resurrection, considering alternative hypotheses like the swoon theory, hallucination hypothesis, and stolen body claim. Which piece of evidence or argument for the resurrection presented in the sermon do you find most compelling, and why? How does this strengthen your confidence in the historical reality of the resurrection?
2. The resurrection is central to Christianity and assures us of our own future resurrection. How should the reality of Jesus' resurrection shape your week? What attitudes or characteristics should be expressed, knowing that you are united with Christ in his death and resurrection?
3. Have you wrestled with doubts in the past, perhaps feeling compelled to believe some of the claims that deny Jesus' resurrection? If some still challenge you today, speak to another believer or one of the elders to gain further understanding and confidence in the faith.
4. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon? Share this with another brother or sister in the fellowship.



Across

2. Former skeptic who became a key resurrection witness.
7. Prophet who foretold the resurrection in chapter 26:19.
8. Theory claiming Jesus only fainted on the cross.
9. Hypothesis suggesting the disciples imagined seeing Jesus alive.
10. Egyptian god falsely compared to Jesus' resurrection story.
11. Jewish group denying resurrection in Jesus' time.
13. Facts like the empty tomb and eyewitness reports.
14. Found empty on the first day of the week after Jesus' burial.
15. Heavenly beings who told the women Jesus had risen.

Down

1. The Roman method of execution Jesus endured under Pontius Pilate.
3. The central event of Christianity, where Jesus rose bodily from the dead.
4. Jewish council that included Joseph of Arimathea.
5. Jesus' followers who spread the news of His resurrection.
6. Roman governor who ordered Jesus' death.
11. One who doubts the resurrection, like Thomas initially.
12. First-century accounts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.